

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

October 4, 2020

PRELUDE “Blessed Are Ye Faithful Souls” Brahms

### WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

The heavens declare the glory of God!

**The skies proclaim God’s handiwork.**

The day pronounces God’s glory without a sound,

**the night tells of God’s knowledge without a word,**

and yet their voice goes out through all the earth.

**Let us join with the voice of creation to declare God’s glory!**

\*HYMN “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above” No. 483

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us boldly confess our sin before the One who already knows our failings and is gracious to forgive and restore.

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Loving God, you have planted us like a vineyard on a fertile hill.

You cleared away the stones, planted us with choice vines, and kept watch over us by night and day.

But we have not yielded the good fruit that you expected or desired.

We are overgrown with sin, choked with violence and injustice.

Forgive us, we pray.

Uproot our evil, prune away our sin,

and shower upon us the gift of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### \*SILENT CONFESSION

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our salvation does not depend on anything we have done, but comes from God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

This is the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 579

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

#### SHARING GOD’S GIFTS

My friends, remember the grace of our Lord, Jesus, who, though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that by his poverty we might become rich. Let us give as we have been blessed.

#### \*DOXOLOGY

No. 592

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for all your good gifts, and above all, for the gift of knowing Christ our Savior.

Strengthen us as we strive for the heavenly prize that you offer: eternal and abundant life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### \*HYMN

“This Is My Father's World”

No. 293

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all wisdom, give us your Word and send us your Spirit so that we may know, love, and follow Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Isaiah 5:1-7

**5** Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
**2** He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.  
**3** And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.  
**4** What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?  
**5** And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.  
**6** I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
**7** For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah

are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!

**NEW TESTAMENT:** Matthew 21:33-46

**33** "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. **34** When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. **35** But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. **36** Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. **37** Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' **38** But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' **39** So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. **40** Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" **41** They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."  
**42** Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?'  
**43** Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. **44** The one who falls on this stone will

be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

SERMON "God's Vineyard / God's Church"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

\*HYMN "Though I May Speak" No. 335

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE "Prelude and Fugue in B Flat" J.S. Bach

\* indicates those who are able may stand

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## 483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7

Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675

Trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864; alt.

Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

1. Sing praise to God, who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre -  
2. What God's al-might - y power hath made, God's gra - cious mer - cy  
3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, But through all grief dis -  
4. Thus all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud Thy

a - tion, The God of power, the God of love, The God of  
keep - eth; By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade God's watch - ful  
tress - ing, An ev - er pres - ent help and stay, Our peace, and  
prais - es That all may hear the grate - ful song My voice un -

our sal - va - tion; With heal - ing balm my soul is filled, And  
eye ne'er sleep - eth; With - in the king - dom of God's might, Lo!  
joy, and bless - ing; As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God  
wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stilled:  
all is just and all is right:  
gent - ly leads the cho - sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry!  
soul and bod - y take your part:

\*May be sung in unison.

This tune in a lower key, 7

# This Is My Father's World

293

TERRA BEATA SMD

Maltbie Davenport Babcock, 1901

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915  
Harm. 1953 for *The Hymnbook*; alt. 1988

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-tening ears All  
2. This is my Fa-ther's world: Oh, let me ne'er for - get That

na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought Of  
This is my Fa-ther's world: The bat - tle is not done; Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won - ders wrought.  
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heav - en be one.

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335

# Though I May Speak

O WALY WALY LM

Hal Hopson, 1972

English folk melody  
Harm. John Weaver, 1988

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, And have the  
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, And striv - ing  
3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, Our spir - its

gift to all in - spire, And have not love, my  
so my love pro - fess, But not be given by  
long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide

words are vain; As sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
love with - in, The prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
ev - ery deed; By this we wor - ship and are freed.

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